

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Landscape Master Planning: Building an On-line Survey for Sardinia, Italy

Andrea De Montis, Antonio Ledda, Amedeo Ganciu, Mario Barra, Simone Caschili

Dipartimento di Agraria, University of Sassari, viale Italia 39, 07100 Sassari, Italy - UCL QASER Lab & Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College London Gower Street, London, WC1E 7HB, UK
email corresponding author: andreadm@uniss.it

Background

In 2006, the Autonomous Region of Sardinia has approved the Landscape Regional Plan (Italian acronym PPR), a relevant landscape governance tool that implies a revision of current municipal master plans (Italian acronym PRG). Sardinian municipalities are engaged in the adjustment of the PRG in a procedure including the integration of strategic environmental assessment (SEA). This process presents a variety of courses of action.

Aims, methods and application

We aim to scrutinise the level of SEA implementation in the PRG of Sardinia. For this scope we have planned and implemented an user friendly on-line questionnaire that scrutinizes four key issues recognized in literature as crucial for SEA implementation (see Figure 1).

2 CUPUM 2013 conference posters

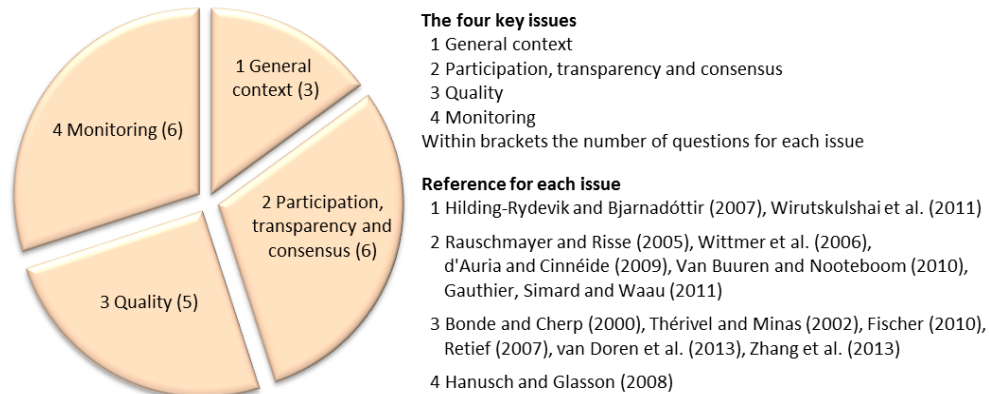


Figure 1: Key issues and scientific literature on SEA.

In a previous study (De Montis, 2013), the authors have experimented similar on-line services and tools able to support an efficient harvest of information. Google Docs™ was used as platform for the implementation of the questionnaire. Google Docs™ was suitable for our scope because it provides editing instruments quality, compatibility with stand-alone working environment, registration form loading and on-line editing time, 24/7 system availability, text management, and recording and storing reliability. After three years of experience with on-line questionnaires, in this study we have selected the second generation architecture of Google Docs™ documents, i.e. Google Drive.

Preliminary outcomes

So far, 158 out of 196 municipalities have been contacted and screened with respect to the general attitude toward SEA implementation within master planning. Municipalities have been clustered in six groups in order to outline a preliminary picture of the processes at hand (see Figure 2).

Thirty-five municipalities belonging to groups 5 and 6 have been invited to fill in the questionnaire, as they have implemented SEA in a significant way; just eight have replied. For each key issue, the following concerns emerge from questionnaire's answers. Contextual aspects include the limited availability of financial resources, while time dedicated to participation is often estimated insufficient. In nearly all cases, environmental sustainability objectives have been clearly specified and SEA has been activated since the early stages of the planning process. Monitoring has not been developed in any municipality and resources are insufficient to support the process.

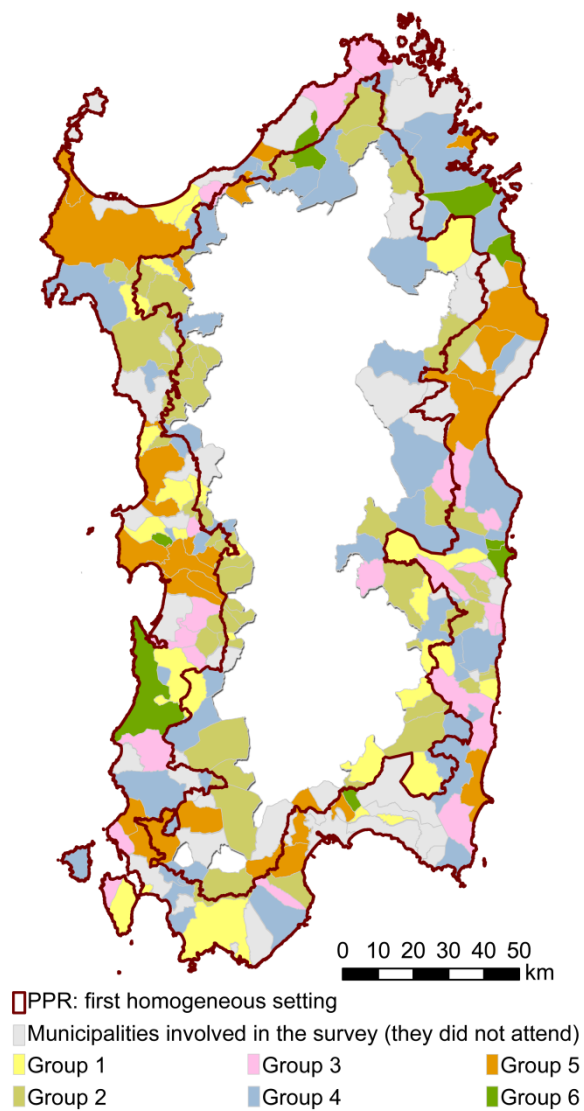


Figure 2: Municipalities involved in the survey about SEA implementation.

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VAS e delle IDT [Efficacy and Efficiency of landscape and spatial governance in Sardinia: the role of SEA and ICT]” founded by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia.

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